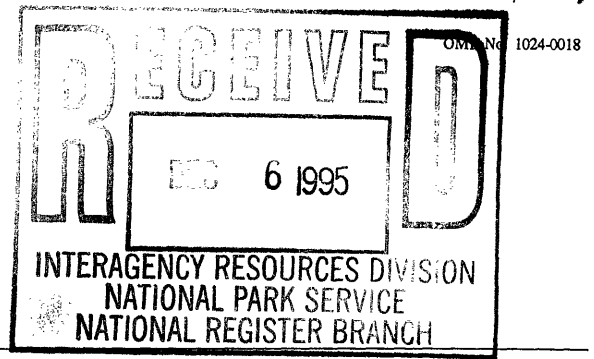


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Swanson Boathouse

other name/site number: Two Medicine Boathouse

2. Location

street & number: N/A

not for publication: n/a

vicinity: east shore Two Medicine Lake; Glacier National Park (GLAC)

city/town: East Glacier

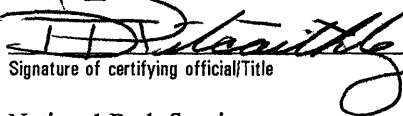
state: Montana code: MT

county: Glacier code: 35

zip code: 59434

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

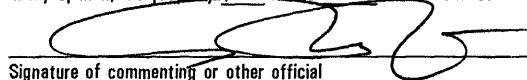
  
Signature of certifying official/Title

12.5.95  
Date

National Park Service

State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.

  
Signature of commenting or other official

SEP 29 1995  
Date

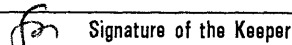
Montana State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register  
   see continuation sheet  
   determined eligible for the National Register  
   see continuation sheet  
   determined not eligible for the National Register  
   see continuation sheet  
   removed from the National Register  
   see continuation sheet  
   other (explain)

  
Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the  
National Register

Date of Action

1/19/96

Name of Property

County and State

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property: Public-Federal (term lease)

Category of Property: Building

Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register: N/AName of related multiple property listing: Glacier National Park Multiple  
Property Listing**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing Noncontributing

1        building(s)              sites              structures              objects1        Total**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions:**

Recreation and Culture/boathouse

**Current Function:**

Same

**7. Description****Architectural Classification:**

Rustic

**Materials:**

foundation: concrete pier

walls: exposed-log framing system; 8" vertical planks

roof: composition sheeting

other:

**Narrative Description**

Boathouse #897 is located along the east shore of Two Medicine Lake, within a concession area once incorporating two boathouses, the Great Northern Chalet complex, and the Park Saddle Horse Company's corral and barn facilities. The second boathouse and the horse facilities are no longer extant and chalet C has been extensively modified in the post-historic period. The chalet dining room is listing in the NRHP as a National Historic Landmark.

This is a one-story log-frame building with a long rectangular footprint oriented perpendicular to the lake shore. The log framing system is exposed and infilled with eight-inch vertical planks. Composition sheeting covers the front-gable roof. The building is constructed on a series of stone piers.

Log framing members bracket the door and window openings. The rear (east) elevation contains a pedestrian door constructed of 8" vertical planks. The gable end features an exposed log king truss. The north (side) elevation contains a single six-light casement window flanked to either side by a pair of six-light casement windows. The south elevation, from west to east, contains a vertical-board pedestrian door, a pair of casement windows, a single window, and a pair of windows. Large plywood double doors, extending from the beach to the mid-point of the gable end, dominate the front (west) elevation. A metal-rail boat launch extends from the front elevation into the lake. The building is painted brown, with white window frames, and is in good condition.

The interior is unfinished, with vertical plank walls and an exposed-truss ceiling. The boat launch runs down the center of the interior space. The floor beneath the launch is dirt; the area to either side has been built up with concrete to the level of the launch rails and is covered with 4" tongue-and-groove planks. Although subject to routine maintenance, the building has not been significantly altered and retains physical integrity.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:**

**Applicable National Register Criteria:** A; C

**Areas of Significance:** Government; Entertainment/Recreation;  
Architecture

**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):** N/A

**Period(s) of Significance:** 1933-1945

**Significant Person(s):** N/A

**Significant Dates:** 1933

**Cultural Affiliation:** N/A

**Architect/Builder:** J. W. "Billy" Swanson of the Swanson Boat  
Company

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Swanson Boathouse is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, at the local level, under criteria A and C, for its association with early development of the park's recreation infrastructure and its association with rustic architecture. The boathouse is a component of the World Class Accommodations property type, as defined in the Glacier National Park Multiple Property Listing.

Captain J. W. "Billy" Swanson, principle stockholder in the park's boat concession, first ran a launch on Two Medicine Lake in 1920. Swanson sold the Swanson Boat Company and all improvements to Burch and Anderson of the "Glacier Park Boat Company" in 1938.

Park maintenance records indicate that the Swanson Boathouse was constructed in 1936 by Swanson. However, a 1934 map of the Two Medicine area (incorporated within the Glacier Master Plan), shows two boathouses, one of which conforms in size and location to building #897.

Name of Property

County and State

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**9. Major Bibliographic References**

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Glacier 150-A form (revised), "Boathouse No. 897," in building maintenance files, Glacier National Park

Newell, Alan S.; David Walter, and James R. McDonald. Historic Resources Study, Glacier National Park and Historic Structures Survey. Denver, Colorado: National Park Service, Denver Service Center, 1980

U.S. Department of the Interior, Branch of Plans and Designs. *Master Plan for Glacier National Park*. Washington, D.C: U.S. Department of the Interior, Branch of Plans and Designs, 1933. Available at the Technical Information Center (TIC), NPS, Denver, CO.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
☐ previously listed in the National Register  
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register  
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark  
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	A 12	324960	5372490

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

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The boundaries encompass only the building and associated launch.

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**Boundary Justification**

These boundaries exclude neighboring areas of significant modern development. The broad expanse of Two Medicine Lake, extending from the boathouse's west elevation, provides a substantial "buffer" and protects the property's integrity of setting and of association.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Ann Hubber/Historian  
organization: Historical Research Associates, Inc. date: 6/1995  
street & number: P.O. Box 7086 telephone: (406) 721-1958  
city or town: Missoula state: MT zip code: 59807-7086

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**Property Owner**

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name/title: National Park Service  
street & number: Park Headquarters telephone: (406)888-5441  
city or town: West Glacier state: MT zip code: 59936

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number      Photographs, Additional Documentation      Page 1      Swanson Boathouse, Glacier  
County, MT.

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### Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs listed below:

- 1) Photographer: Nancy Niedernhofer
- 2) Date of  
Photographs: September 1993
- 3) Location of  
Negatives: National Park Service, RMR-RC, Denver, CO

PHOTO NUMBER	DIRECTION OF VIEW
1	View to Southwest
2	View to Southeast
3	Interior

### Additional Documentation

The following site plan can be found at the Denver Service Center's Technical Information Center, Denver, Colorado.